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THE ATTACK ON STONE

It is a pity that all the democrats of the country, and the republicans as well, could not have heard the speech delivered by Senator Stone before the Missouri Press association at Kansas City a few days ago. The republican papers had been so malicious and so mendacious in their attacks upon him that he took advantage of the occasion to make a reply to their misrepresentations. He had been accused of securing the passage of a bill prohibiting the use of alum in the manufacture of food products, and the more partisan of the papers even insinuated that he was trying to avoid testifying before the grand jury in the bribery cases now pending. The facts as presented by Mr. Stone are, first, that he never knew of the passage of the anti-alum bill until a year after it became a law. He was then practicing law in Missouri, and was employed to prosecute certain parties charged with a violation of the law. During the investigation of this case he learned of the testimony before a congressional commission in regard to the effect of alum on the health. He learned that the subject had been investigated and that, according to the testimony of the representatives of nearly all of the state universities and larger colleges, the use of alum in food products is injurious to health. He learned that our government prohibits its use in food furnished for the soldiers, and that other governments have taken similar action. When, in the spring of 1901, a bill was introduced to repeal the anti-alum statute, he prepared a brief on the subject, reviewing the testimony given by scientists, and arguing that, if that testimony was true, the law should not be repealed, adding that if any modification of the law was thought desirable it ought at least to be made compulsory upon those using alum to so state on the packages containing the prepared food. This brief was mailed to the members of the legislature. Mr. Stone did not visit the capital; did not speak to any legislator on the subject, and did not write to any, the mailing of this brief being the only part that he took in the matter.

When one knows of the facts in this case and then reads the venomous attacks made upon Senator Stone by the corporation papers, he understands how much Senator Stone is feared.

The republican party has on numerous occasions sent to the United States senate men who had for a period of years made their headquarters at state capitals and lobbied in behalf of the railroads; it has now in congress men who are pecuniarily interested in the exploitation of the Philippine Islands, and who in their official capacity pass upon measures that vitally affect their business enterprises. The republicans at one time voted for a presidential candidate who was shown to have received \$5,000 as a fee from a company that had business before his committee, when he was a member of congress, and yet these same republicans are horrified to think that a private citizen, not an official, acting as an attorney, should prosecute suits under a statute of the state, or prepare a written brief upon a subject before the legislature.

Governor Stone has aroused the anger of the

great corporations because he has attacked the influences that dominate the republican party in state and nation; he has angered the metropolitan papers because he has exposed their subserviency to organized wealth, and he is now made the victim of their constant assaults. He has been a prosecuting attorney, a congressman and a governor, and no one has been able to point to an act in his official career that was open to criticism. Baffled in their attempt to find a flaw in his official record his enemies seize upon and misrepresent a transaction in which, while a private citizen, he appeared as an attorney.

The courage with which Senator Stone has attacked corruption and those who have been guilty of it, is in itself proof that there is nothing in his life that can be exposed to his detriment. The moral courage which he has shown can only rest upon a consciousness of moral conduct—a guilty conscience makes men cowardly.

ORGANIZE!

The only hope the reorganizers may have to obtain control of the democratic party is in the indifference of the rank and file.

If democrats lose interest in the struggle for the control of the party and the perpetuation of its principles, then it will not be difficult for the reorganizers, with the aid of what one of their organs called "the needful equipment," to frame the platform and choose the candidate. In that event, it is, of course, certain that the platform would be written to conform to the interests of the money power and that the candidate would be a man upon whom the financiers might depend to protect their interests at the expense of the people.

It is important, therefore, that in every precinct in the United States democrats organize for the contest that is at hand.

In every precinct a democratic club should be organized whose members are pledged to the defense of the Kansas City platform and who will see to it that delegates chosen to represent them in conventions are true to the interests of the people and faithful to democratic doctrines.

As rapidly as these clubs are organized, the fact of their organization should be reported to The Commoner. Upon application The Commoner will furnish a form of constitution and membership blanks. The work of organization is progressing at a gratifying rate. All that is necessary is for every one who believes that the democratic party should take no backward step to make it his duty to immediately do his part in the work of organization.

An "Organ's" Monopoly.

Leslie's Weekly refers to the editor of The Commoner as "the Nebraska grafter;" also as "Nebraska's political wart." Can any one now doubt that Leslie's Weekly represents an element having a monopoly upon intelligence, patriotism and general virtues?

MAYOR TOM L. JOHNSON

Among the prominent democrats of the country who have been mentioned in connection with presidential honors none has been mentioned with more frequency than Mayor Tom L. Johnson, thrice elected mayor of Cleveland, O. He is a democrat who has always been loyal, always a hard worker in the party, and always a virile leader in reforms demanded by the people. The Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat, one of the strongest democratic dailies in the country, edited by Warren Worth Bailey, speaks of Mayor Johnson in the following words:

"If nothing more than ability to carry elections were to be the test of fitness, Johnson would measure up to the full standard. He is the only democrat of national reputation who has in recent years been able to wrest victory from the clutch of hopeless conditions; victory, not for himself alone, but for his party also.

"Two years ago he became mayor of Cleveland. It was not by bargaining with the republican politicians and corporation magnates of that republican city, as his 'democratic' predecessor had done, but by fighting them with radically democratic policies in an open campaign. He appealed to the people and won them over to his side. Six months later he secured a democratic victory in Cuyahoga county, until then a republican stronghold, and seated in the legislature the first democratic delegation that had gone from that county in forty years or more. When a year had rolled around he led the party to victory in a municipal election in Cleveland, in which he was not himself a candidate. In another six months he was leading the state campaign for his party in northern Ohio, where he increased the democratic vote by 10,000; without counting Cuyahoga county, which he carried for the state ticket by 2,500, the city of Cleveland responded with a plurality of 5,000. And now, after only two years of leadership, he not only secures his own re-election as mayor, but establishes his party completely and overwhelmingly in power in a city which has never before been regarded as democratic. On the mere basis of vote-attracting ability, no present aspirant for the democratic nomination for president can compare with Johnson.

"But that is the least of his qualifications. Both his administration as mayor and his methods of party leadership have proved him to be a democratic statesman of the purest and ablest type. When he came into the office of mayor of Cleveland two years ago that city was under the government of what is known as the federal plan. It was the mayor's duty under this plan to appoint a cabinet consisting of heads of departments, and to supervise their work. There were but few men who had been tested in public office whom he could select for appointments. Most of the tried officeholders of Cleveland of both parties had been found disgracefully wanting. Johnson was obliged, therefore, to reorganize the city government with untried men, trusting to his knowledge of human nature to pick out the honest ones, and to his business experience and judgment to select the capable. He did not fail. From